

# Special Treatment

Paul Kelly

Grandfather walked this land in chains  
A land he called his own  
He was given another name  
And taken into town

He got special treatment  
Special treatment  
Very special treatment

My father worked a twelve-hour day  
As a stockman on the station  
The very same work but not the same pay  
As his white companions

He got special treatment  
Special treatment  
Very special treatment

Mother and father loved each other well  
But together they could not stay  
They were split up against their will  
Until their dying day

They got special treatment  
Special treatment  
Very special treatment

Mama gave birth to a stranger's child  
A child she called her own  
Strangers came and took away that child  
To a stranger's home

She got special treatment  
Special treatment  
Very special treatment

I never spoke my mother's tongue  
I never knew my name  
I never learnt the songs she sung  
I was raised in shame

I got special treatment  
Special treatment  
Very special treatment  
We got special treatment  
Special treatment  
Very special treatment